

# THE POLICE NEWS

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## La Porte PD hosts first Youth Explorer academy, expands current membership



Graduates of First Youth Explorer Academy hosted by LPPD

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the La Porte Police Department welcomed a select set of young citizens into their family of community servants. LPPD's original 2014 Explorer Academy was held from August 11<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, and participants were exposed to a multitude of police-related activities. Graduates included: Corby Alexander, Will Davis, Isaiah Escobar, Noah Gonzales, Matthew Guyon, Nicholas Guyon, Chris Melton, Daniel Snell, and Joshua Zech. The newly graduated group now joins many other young men and women from the La Porte community in their ongoing examination of the law enforcement profession.

Primary instruction for the recent academy was provided by LPPD Support Services representative Officer Roger Gonzalez, with additional assistance and direction given by LPPD Officers Chris Paige, and Brett Salter. Topics formally consisted of classroom education covering the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Penal Code, and State Traffic Law. Additional areas of both hands-on and classroom training included: Crime Scene processing, Active Shooter response, Taser Training, SIDnE Impaired Driving Recognition, Firearms Safety and shooting, along with a fun day of going to the San Jacinto Monument and Battleship Texas.

Exploring is a program designed by Learning for Life (a sub-division of the Boy Scouts of America) for young adults, both male and female, ages 14 (and completed 8th grade) to 20 that share an attraction to a specific career such as law enforcement. Many different law enforcement agencies sponsor explorer programs in the education of participants to become future law enforcement officers or to have a career in law enforcement. The program provides an ideal link between the academic environment and the real world.

Explorer Students benefit in the areas of: character development, building self-confidence, establishing leadership skills, ongoing social development, unique career experiences, networking & internships, volunteer & community service opportunities, and recognition of the value surrounding group collaboration and teamwork.

In addition to exposure to the police culture and helping to determine a potential career path, Youth Explorers remain connected to their local police department and find an abundance of rewarding volunteer opportunities through a series of community service projects, as well as annual Youth Explorer scenario-based competitions held around Texas. With their current graduation and certification, the new Youth Explorers may also participate in the Patrol Ride-Along Program upon obtaining permission from their legal guardians. For questions concerning either of La Porte's Youth Explorer Post, please contact the Support Services Division at 281-842-3183, or log onto the department's website at [http://www.ci.la-porte.tx.us/gov/police/support/youth\\_explorer\\_program/default.asp](http://www.ci.la-porte.tx.us/gov/police/support/youth_explorer_program/default.asp)